

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of detecting a stealth virus comprising  
2 culturing a sample under conditions in which any stealth  
3 virus in said sample is able to induce a cytopathic  
4 effect.

1 2. The method of claim 1, in which the culturing is  
2 performed by:

3 (a) inoculating a permissive cell line with a  
4 sample; and

5 (b) detecting *in vitro* a cytopathic effect in  
6 the permissive cell line.

1 3. The method of claim 2, in which the cell line is  
2 maintained in culture medium, and further comprising  
3 replacing the culture medium every 24 to 72 hours.

1 4. The method of claim 1, in which the sample is  
2 taken from a patient diagnosed from physical symptoms as  
3 having chronic fatigue syndrome.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the cell line is  
2 an insect cell line.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the cell line is  
2 *Spodoptera fruiperda* ~~derived~~ <sup>isolated</sup> ovarian cell line Sf9.

1 7. A method for culturing a stealth virus  
2 comprising:

3 (a) inoculating a permissive cell line with a  
4 sample;

5 (b) neutralizing stealth virus associated toxic  
6 activity; and

7 (c) detecting *in vitro* a cytopathic effect in the  
8 permissive cell line.

1           8.    The method of claim 7, in which the cell line is  
2 maintained in culture medium and the neutralizing  
3 comprises replacing the culture medium every 24 to 72  
4 hours.

1           9.    The method of claim 8, in which the cell line is  
2 maintained in culture medium and the neutralizing  
3 comprises adding a neutralizing agent to the culture  
4 medium.

1           10.   The method of claim 9, in which the neutralizing  
2 agent is selected from the group consisting of 5% to 10%  
3 fetal calf serum in medium 199, an antibody specific for,  
4 the toxin and a chemical agent capable of reversing the  
5 toxic activity.

1           ~~11.~~ <sup>11</sup> The method of claim 7, wherein said sample is  
2 ~~derived~~ <sup>isolated</sup> from a human or animal source.

1           ~~12.~~ <sup>12</sup> The method of claim 7, wherein said sample is  
2 ~~derived~~ <sup>isolated</sup> from food, ~~an environmental substance,~~ or ~~an~~  
3 object suspected as being a possible source of stealth  
4 viral infection or transmission.

1           13.    A method of culturing a stealth virus  
2 comprising:

3           (a) inoculating a permissive cell line with a sample  
4 of said virus in a culture;

5           (b) adding serum free medium to the culture; and

6           (c) detecting in vitro the presence of a cytopathic  
7 effect in the permissive cell line.

1           14.    The method of claim ~~12~~ <sup>13</sup>, wherein the serum-free  
2 medium is medium X Vivo-15.

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1 15. A method for culturing a stealth virus  
2 comprising:

3 (a) co-centrifuging a sample of said virus with a  
4 permissive cell line of indicator cells;

5 (b) inoculating the cell mixture into culture  
6 vessels; and

7 (c) detecting *in vitro* a cytopathic effect in the  
8 permissive cell line.

9 16. The method of claim ~~14~~<sup>15</sup>, further comprising  
2 adding cytomegalovirus supernatant to the culture.

9 17. The method of claim ~~14~~<sup>15</sup>, further comprising  
2 adding viral enhancing medium to the culture.

9 18. The method of claim ~~14~~<sup>15</sup>, further comprising  
2 refeeding the culture medium every 24 to 72 hours.

1 19. A method for culturing a stealth virus  
2 comprising:

3 (a) inoculating a permissive cell line with a sample  
4 of said virus in a culture;

5 (b) adding viral enhancing medium to the culture;  
6 and

7 (c) detecting *in vitro* a cytopathic effect in the  
8 permissive cell line.

9 20. The method of claim ~~18~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein said viral  
2 enhancing medium contains 30% boiled, filtered products  
3 ~~derived~~<sup>isolated</sup> from the supernatant of cultures of  
4 cytomegalovirus and 70% medium X Vivo-15.

9 21. The method of claim ~~18~~<sup>19</sup>, in which the cell line  
is maintained in culture medium, and further comprising  
3 replacing the culture medium every 24 to 72 hours.

8 (d) detecting *in vitro* a cytopathic effect in the  
9 permissive cell line. nn

23. The method of claim ~~21~~<sup>22</sup>, wherein said virus is a stealth virus.

24. The method of claim ~~21~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said virus is cytomegalovirus.

25. The method of claim ~~25~~<sup>26</sup>, wherein said virus is  
2 human herpesvirus-6.

[illegible]

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